

2009 Pageant Contestants: *Continued from Page 1*

DESTINY VAUGHT OF BENSON

**SPONSORED BY:
TUCSON RODEO PARADE COMMITTEE, INC.**

Destiny Abelina, 23, resides in Benson, Arizona. She is a student at Cochise College and plans to attend the University of Arizona to graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Business. While Destiny has held three rodeo queen titles, she is not your average queen. She can ride, rope, drive horse-drawn wagons, weld and operate heavy machinery. When time allows, some of her interests include: cooking, song writing, singing, fishing, camping, traveling and even a good game of chess. Growing up in the western lifestyle along with a family-owned and operated business has instilled in Destiny the meaning of hard work and perseverance.



LAURA WHISTANLEY OF KINGMAN

**SPONSORED BY:
THE KINGSMEN**



At 20-years-old, Laura is currently attending Mohave Community College where she is working towards her Associate of Arts Degree. Upon graduation, she plans to transfer to Cal State Fullerton and graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Computer Graphics and Design. In her spare time, she enjoys riding her two horses, drawing and watching anime, as well as spending time with her family and friends. She has been involved in rodeo queen competitions for the past six years and has held three rodeo queen titles, the most recent being 2008 Andy Devine Days Rodeo Queen in Kingman.

A Note from the Miss Rodeo Arizona President: *Trudy Conner*

Hello Everyone!

With each passing year, change is inevitable. This year the 2009 Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant has encountered many changes! We are excited to have you experience our new and innovative Pageant. On behalf of the Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc. Board of Directors, I want to thank each and every one of our volunteers and board members for all the work they've put into the 2009 Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant, "Everyday Super Heroes."

We are extremely proud of Casey Rose, Miss Rodeo Arizona 2008! She has done an outstanding job representing rodeo and the western way of life as she traveled many, many miles throughout Arizona and across the nation. When she competed this past December in Las Vegas at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant, we became even more proud of her. She competed with class and dignity, and brought home to Arizona the highly coveted Horsemanship Award!

A Note from the Miss Rodeo Arizona President: *Continued from Page 2*

Casey has earned respect and appreciation from people throughout our nation, due to her commitment to her job as Arizona's first lady of Rodeo. Casey, we are deeply grateful to you for doing such a superb job, you make Arizona proud. We are also quite grateful to her mother Teresa as well, for her support and dedication. Thank you both! I hope you'll join us to raise money for the new Miss Rodeo Arizona and send Casey off in style – she's certainly deserves a great farewell. Remember to reserve your coronation tickets.

This year we are pleased to have four well-qualified contestant competing for the title of Miss Rodeo Arizona 2009. We want to extend best wishes to Taryn Brady, April Mendenhall, Destiny Vaught and Laura Winstanley as they compete in each of the judged events. We also want to officially thank their families for the support and encouragement they provide as these young women compete at this level.



It would be simply impossible to produce this pageant without the help of many different people. We want to thank all of our sponsors, the judges, the chaperones, the town committees, the master of

ceremonies, the accountants and all of the visiting royalty from other states and throughout Arizona who have helped us in so many ways. Your support and the countless hours you have dedicated to this pageant are truly appreciated. A special thanks to our Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona for supporting an organization so dear to my heart. If you are not yet a Friend of the Miss Rodeo Arizona, please be sure to take a moment to learn how you can help support Miss Rodeo Arizona 2009. You can find our membership form online. I would also like to personally thank each member of our Miss Rodeo Arizona Board for their dedication to this organization and all of the work they do throughout the year.

Wishing each one of you a wonderful time at the 2009 Miss Rodeo Arizona pageant and the Cave Creek Fiesta Days Rodeo! Save the Date for Coronation. It will be held on May 9th at Agritopia in Gilbert, Arizona. For more information, please visit our website www.missrodeoarizona.info or email mrazpres@gmail.com or mrazpageant@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Trudy Conner, President
Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc.



Miss Rodeo Arizona Organization & Pageant Sponsors

Thank you, 2008 Pageant & Award Sponsors:

★ Nancy Ayers ★ Laurie (Baker) Brown (MRAz '99) ★ Conner Family ★ Chuck, Chad & Kate Cox (MRAz '01) – *In Memory of Marilyn Cox* ★ Heather DeWitt (MRAz '03) ★ DeWitt Training Stables ★ Joe & Julie Jenkins ★ MiQuel (Holyoak) McRae (MRA '97) ★ Kelley Pollock - *In Memory of John Pollock* ★ Payson ProRodeo Committee ★ Jim & Pat Stotts and Burton & Laurie Stotts-Eller (MRAz '84) ★ Cliff & Nancy Uptain ★ Yuma Jaycees Silver Spurs Royalty ★



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Without the financial backing of businesses like these, MRAz, Inc. would not be able to support its titleholder and Miss Rodeo Arizona would not be able to complete her basic obligations, let alone go beyond the call of duty. **MRAz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible.** Multiple sponsorship opportunities are available or you can donate products/services for any MRAz Event to help raise money. Our sponsors are included in MRAz, Inc. promotional materials and we can bring a fresh approach to your marketing and customer relations program – especially since our titleholders travel several thousand miles. We would gladly develop a sponsorship to suit you and your business needs. Visit our website and “contact us” to start supporting your western heritage as an MRAz Sponsor! **We look forward to having you on our team!**



Join Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona

Like what you see? Well, MRAz, Inc. has gone DIGITAL with their newsletter. This means more color, more photos and more news... more often! Sign up to become a Friend today and take advantage of this new opportunity to stay informed. Already a Friend? Make sure MRAz, Inc. has an active email on file so you don't miss out!

“Friends of Miss Rodeo Arizona” is a dynamic way to stay involved in rodeo and the rodeo queen community. Your membership fees help support MRAz, Inc. and Casey Jo Rose, MRAz 2008! Friend benefits include...

- Bi-monthly "Friends" Newsletter
- \$2 off any MRAz sponsored event (including the Pageant)
- Membership Card & Signed photo of current Miss Rodeo Arizona
- Discounted advertising / messaging on website and in newsletter
- Tax deductible membership dues

Log on to www.missrodeoarizona.info and click “JOIN” to get the registration sheet. MRAz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (tax ID# 86-0655574). Email mrazpres@gmail.com for more info.

MCMS Fundraising Calendar

By Kate Cox, MCMS Fundraising Director

2010 to Feature Arizona Artists

It is time to plan the 2010 Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship Calendar! We're going to be featuring Arizona artists and I would love your assistance in forwarding this opportunity on to talented artists across the Grand Canyon State. **Would you be interested in having your western/equine/Arizona artwork featured in the 2010 Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship Calendar?** Contact Kate Cox, MCMS Fundraising Director, ASAP!

We are hoping to have enough artists, that we can have a voting at the Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant to determine which art will be featured in the 2010 calendar. Here are the specifics:

- Each artist may submit up to three pieces.
- The art should be of western, rodeo, equine or Arizona persuasion.
- Artwork may be photographs, drawings, sketches, paintings... anything 2D.
- In case of a voting tie, priority will be given to Arizona artists - those living in Arizona or born in Arizona. However, out-of-state artists are still encouraged to enter!
- There will be 12 pieces of art featured in the 2010 MCMS Calendar.
- A registration form will be available at missrodeoarizona.info on the newsletters page after January 15th.
- **The deadline for artists to submit artwork will be April 24th, 2009.**

To submit your artwork - please mail CD of print-ready digital documents - files should each be saved as artwork's name. Be sure to include your registration form and \$10 donation per artwork entry. Checks should be made out to MRAz, Inc. - these donations will help with processing entries. MRAz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Unless submissions are over-whelming, we plan to announce which pieces of artwork will be included in the 2010 calendar by May 2009. At that time, you will be contacted via email to provide a brief bio to be included in the calendar.

For more info., visit www.missrodeoarizona.info! Thanks for your help and let your artist friends know they can contact me by emailing click.k8@gmail.com. I'd be happy to answer any

questions. Please start passing the word along! And thanks, in advance, for your support!

2010 Calendar will also Provide Great Sponsorship Opportunities

In order to create a better funding source for the Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship fund, we have decided to invite you and businesses/organizations to join our effort to encourage education among young, western women.

The 2010 Calendar will have 13 sponsorship opportunities. Twelve of these spots will provide a sponsor with their logo and contact information on a month's page, plus a business card sized area within the calendar for them to include more information about their business or their dedication to rodeo, education and the western way of life. The remaining opportunity is for a cover sponsor. The cover sponsor will have their logo and phone/website on all months, plus their logo and entire contact information on the cover, and a business card sized area within the calendar to include more information about their business or their dedication to rodeo, education and the western way of life.

As the economy has made difficult times for many of us, MCMS has reached a pricing for these scholarships that we hope will be an affordable opportunity for you to advertise while supporting Miss Rodeo Arizona and the Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship fund. **Monthly sponsorships are available for \$75.**

Please remember that the Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship is part of Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc. MRAz, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to motivate young western women to continue their education and implement it as voices of the western way of life through their career.

Thank you for your consideration and please pass this information on to anyone you think would be interested in supporting Miss Rodeo Arizona and the Marilyn Cox Memorial Scholarship.

A Note from the Arizona National Director: *Julie Jenkins*

Hello friends and supporters of Miss Rodeo Arizona!

I have been honored to serve the past two years as President for Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc., but have moved on to a new role within the organization. As of January 25th, at the MRAZ Annual Meeting, I accepted the role of National Director. In this capacity I will be the official liaison between the Miss Rodeo America association and the Miss Rodeo Arizona organization.

I am really looking forward to this position because, as National Director, I will also be the coordinator for Miss Rodeo Arizona. I love working with the girls because I have seen how much each and every one of them has grown during their year. The experiences they have and adventures they face during their reign lead them to a whole new level of maturity, self confidence, and poise. This transformation is a joy to watch and I feel privileged to be part of that.

If anyone would like to book Miss Rodeo Arizona for an event or appearance, please feel free to contact me at mraznd@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and encourage you to visit our website for information on where Miss Rodeo Arizona is headed next! www.missrodeoarizona.info

Sincerely,

Julie Jenkins
MRAZ, Inc. National Director



From the Pen of Casey Jo Rose - Miss Rodeo Arizona 2008



I've hardly been home for the month of February and we're already in March. It seems that each time I get home, unpack and do some laundry I'm back on the road again. **BUT – I'm having the time of my life!**

I recently got back from Kissimmee, Florida for the Silver Spurs Rodeo and what a blast it was! I got to stay with good friend Sydnye Weber (Miss Rodeo Florida 2008). Sydnye was able to host me AND my circuit sister, Brooklynn Chester - Miss Rodeo New Mexico 2009. I was able to experience some new and exciting things we don't see or do much here in the Southwest. **We went airboating, played with alligators, drove go-carts, wrestled some hogs, ate GATOR and TURTLE and so much more!** There were approximately 15 state

queens who attended and it was exciting to see many of the girls I met in Denver and some new ones as well. I cannot thank Laura Kessler enough for setting up such a wonderful trip for all of us. It is one to remember!

At the end of my Florida trip, I flew straight into Tucson for the Tucson Rodeo Parade. Some of my family members help with the rodeo, so even though Tucson doesn't allow rodeo queens to ride, **I was able to attend**



and help with tasks around the grounds and have fun with the kids. Plus, since I am a heeler and a huge fan of team roping - I couldn't miss the Mike Cervi Jr. Memorial team roping. It was a great event, with many talented ropers. Not to mention it is for a great cause... a portion of the proceeds go the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.



The day after the roping was the parade, and let's just say I've been in many parades throughout my reign, but this sure was an exciting one. **Not only was I treated royally by the parade committee, but the spectators were truly amazing!** They sure do love their parade! It's great to see so many people on the sidewalks watching and getting so excited about every entry headed down the parade route. I felt so honored and had a great time.

Straight from Tucson, I headed to Scottsdale for the Parada Del Sol Rodeo. This was my first time

attending their rodeo and they manage a fabulous event! There were lots of big names... like rodeo announcer Wayne Brooks, Josh Peek, Rod Hay, Allen Bach and Will Lowe... to name a few. **I appreciate what a great job Gina Kraut did with the rodeo queens** - allowing us to be involved in promoting the Parada del Sol events. It's great to be put to work! As Miss Rodeo Arizona, you meet countless wonderful people. While in Scottsdale, I had the privilege to meet a young girl named Katie. Katie was diagnosed with cancer, but her dream was to be a rodeo queen, so the Parada Del Sol Rodeo made that dream come true. The queens we were able to hand over a beautiful buckle and crown for Katie to wear. **I was glad I could be part of this event and feel truly honored to be living Katie's dream!**



After Scottsdale, I was off to Needles, California. **The Needles Rodeo is the newest rodeo member of Miss Rodeo Arizona and I was delighted to visit!** Needles is a small town with little to do, but what a great time I had. I was able to meet many other queens, including Miss Rodeo California - Ashley Hoffman, and what a sweet girl she is! Anita and Derron Kramer were so gracious in inviting me to attend and took such great care of me by providing me a great room and place for my horse to stay! Let's just say that Needles really knows how to treat rodeo queens like royalty!



If you haven't heard by now... let me fill you in! The Miss Rodeo Arizona, Inc. board and I are preparing for the upcoming Miss Rodeo Arizona Pageant to select one very special young lady to take on my position for 2009. **The pageant runs from April 2nd - 5th and is held in conjunction with the Cave Creek Fiesta Days Rodeo.** For more detailed information on the pageant, please visit the Miss Rodeo Arizona website and click on the link for "newsletters and forms" to find a tentative schedule and your ticket registration form!

Everyone's invited! Guys and gals, cowgirls and cowboys and even those not so familiar with a cowboy hat and boots! **We have some great things in store for this year's pageant and I would love for everyone to come and see what the Miss Rodeo Arizona organization offers to young women, like myself.** This year's



pageant theme is "Everyday Super Heroes" so come ready to see who our everyday super heroes are! We have four wonderful young ladies vying for the silver crown for 2009 and I am excited to see these girls strut their stuff! I know they will each do a fantastic job and I would be happy to see any one of them represent the sport of Rodeo!

Some advice to the girls running... Taryn, April, Destiny and Laura: there are three judges with different opinions, so just be yourself, have fun and always smile no matter what happens. Crown or no crown you will gain from this experience and become a stronger, more well-rounded young woman! Best wishes and good luck to each and every one of you! I'll see you in Cave Creek!



Until next time Ride tuff!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey".

Casey Jo Rose
Miss Rodeo Arizona 2008

P.S.

Remember to visit our website and print your ticket registration form. To get the early bird price of \$15/event, your form and payment must be postmarked by March 26th! You can also download the most up-to-date pageant schedule.

For questions, please email mrazpres@gmail.com or mrazpageant@gmail.com. Visiting royalty should contact mraznd@gmail.com as soon as they know what events they will be attending!



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